

NEWS BRIEFS

HEART OF AMERICA WANTS YOU

The Heart of America United Way Volunteer Center is still looking for volunteers to help with tutoring children and to be a mentor to teen mothers. For more information call (816) 474-5112.

THE GREAT DEBATORS

Congratulations to Nicole Kelly for placing second in the parliamentary debate at the Gateway Tournament in St. Louis. Jason Alleman broke quarterfinals and Julie Paszkiewicz and Carly Daniel also turned in fine performances.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 8 WEEKS

There are several internship positions open in Germany, Ghana, Japan, Mexico, and the United Kingdom.

There is no pay and the internships are eight weeks long. The deadline is mid-January. Students interested can check the Webster University website at www.webster.edu.

THE TALON

Frying his mark on Avila

KATIE BOYLE
Staff Writer

Blake Edward Fry, administrator, rule enforcer, impressionist, comedian and friend. Blake Fry is someone that is always willing to help students in a pinch. He even guarded the stairwell to keep men out of an all women pajama party with comedian Wendy Fox.

Fry has been the director of the Student Union Board (now known as GAP) since his first year at Avila.

Through it all Fry was there with interesting ideas and new ways to make Avila programs better.

Avila has won several awards because



Photo courtesy of: Therese Cox



Photo courtesy of: Therese Cox

of Fry's commitment towards successful programming.

Fry also took on the new title of Webmaster in order to keep Avila's website up-to-date and interesting. He served as co-conference chair for the regional NACA conference (National Association for College Activities).

Students and faculty have all realized that there is more to Fry than meets the eye. He achieved his Bachelor's in political science and a Master's in higher education administration. He is currently 12 hours shy of completing his Master's in Business Administration.

Fry will not be returning to Avila in the spring. His new life will take him to

Oklahoma with his new fiancée. He will be missed.

Hopefully his life will be filled with all the fun and laughter that he has brought to the Avila College campus.



Place your bets

SUZANNE BENSON
Staff Writer

Students' presence was the only price of admission at GAP's Casino Night on Nov. 15. For three hours a total of 50 students hooted and hollered over their winning or losing streaks as they placed bets in the Snack Bar disguised as a casino.

At 9 p.m. only a few students hovered. Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Alicia Hoffman explained that GAP events usually bring in late starters.

The dealers set up shop and waited.



Photography by: Andrew Marx



Photography by: Andrew Marx

Within 15 minutes, more than 20 bodies wandered in. What they did not know is that aside from cheap entertainment, they were about to get their first lesson in gambling.

Dealers Willie Griffing and Cliff Porter offered Craps 101, patiently explaining the rules of the game to student/gamblers as they approached the table. One roulette table attendee offered advice and showed the students how to place their bets around the wheel.

Two Black Jack tables filled and emptied quickly, but not for long. "Beat the Dealer" was also offered. It appeared that this game required the least

amount of skill. "Look how easy it is," one participant exclaimed, holding up a pile of red chips.

It was an easy and profitable evening. Each participant was free to bring previously earned GAP bucks to the Casino and they were also given some at the door.

"You can't lose," cashier Katie Boyle said. Boyle explained that the participants could leave with the GAP bucks they came in with, plus their winnings.

Bottom line, Casino Night was not a gamble at all.

Everyone left a winner.

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The Race



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Men's Basketball



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City Lights

Copy cats on campus

CATHY FLINT
Staff Writer

Students could be plagiarizing and not even know it. This can describe the illegal activity of copying someone else's work.

Avila's creed on plagiarizing is self-explanatory. Plagiarism is defined as "taking ideas from another and passing them off as one's own. Included would be the practice of incorporating portions from a book or article into a paper and not acknowledging the source; copying a whole paper or report directly from a book or article; securing a paper or report from someone and submitting it as one's own work."

A survey was given to 29 students on the Avila Campus. Five of 29 students surveyed said that they had plagiarized, and three claimed to have known someone that had plagiarized. The punishment the students received ranged from a slap on the wrist to expulsion. The majority of students surveyed said that the student should fail the assignment and repeat the class.

Some said that perhaps the student did

not realize he or she was plagiarizing.

One stated that the guilt of knowing that they had plagiarized would be punishment enough. One of the five students caught plagiarizing wrote that he or she was "ashamed."

Several students on campus were willing to speak about their experiences with plagiarism and cheating one on one. Only one did not regret his actions.

These were some reasons given for cheating: lowered morals and students are lazy.

Another student said, "the student who uses someone else's work doesn't take their education seriously; they also deny themselves of a good education."

A student named Joe admitted that he had plagiarized in the past. "I wasn't interested in the topic that I had to report on and I also wanted to hang out with my friends," Joe said. He had a choice of rewriting the paper or accepting a failing grade. Joe opted for the rewrite and received a D on the paper.

"It is easy to plagiarize or to cheat here on campus. In the library I can pull a paper up off of the hard drive or use a loaner disk and copy an assignment. It's a really easy way to get your assignment done when you're in a pinch."

Academic Dean Sr. Marie Joan Harris said that there has been more notification of students plagiarizing, but not an

alarming amount. "The possibilities for the ease of plagiarism are the Internet and the ease to download papers, articles and materials," Harris said. She stressed that it is not a moral issue, but an attitude towards education. The value is on a student passing the required courses in order to achieve the student's ultimate goal, a good job.

Ignorance is also an issue regarding plagiarism. Some young people do not really know that they are plagiarizing even though they are aware that they are cheating. They do not understand that they are actually plagiarizing by copying word for word or changing two words here and there.

Associate Professor of Education Sue Ellen McCalley, believes that an undergraduate student is more likely to plagiarize than a graduate student. "A lot of undergraduate students don't understand they are plagiarizing when they are paraphrasing," McCalley said.

McCalley said that usually students, undergraduate and graduate, plagiarize on purpose because they think the work is good and the student wants to take the credit for it. It is not like they

are breaking any copyright laws. They usually do it because they are "lazy, sloppy or don't understand, but it's not out of malice." When it comes to graduate students McCalley stresses that "it is totally unprofessional and a serious offense. It affects the integrity of your work."

McCalley points out to her students that if they quote something right out of the textbook without giving the credit to the appropriate source it is still plagiarism. Trust is broken when a student is caught plagiarizing.

While teaching on a different campus Susan Lawlor, coordinator of the art and design program, had some students copy someone else's published work. If caught, the student fails the assignment with no opportunity to do the project over. "In class we discuss borrowing other people's ideas. An example would be a photograph of a violin versus a painting of a violin where there is a lot of artistic interpretation. Not only is there an ethical issue, but it also deprives the student of their own creative process. They don't learn," Lawlor said.

Kung-fu cafeteria

COURTNEY JO CUTLER
Editor-in-Chief

Action!

The food began to fly. Chocolate pudding, spaghetti sauce and mashed potatoes took wing across the cafeteria on Nov. 29.

American and international students were cast to fling cafeteria cuisine at one another for Ben Meade's latest film project, "The Race."

"The Race" will be an abstract look at racial conflict between Asian and American students.

"The purpose of this (film) is that everybody whines about racism, but no one actually talks about it," Meade said.

"When I first came here, the American students sat by themselves (in the cafeteria) and the Asians sat in the corner. That hasn't changed in three years," Robby McCord, communication student involved in the production of the film, said. "That is why we're doing this today--to show there is an issue here. A



Photography by: Andrew Marx

lot of people will think it is rude, but a lot of people will think it is funny."

"We don't want to see color. Color doesn't matter." This whole thing about 'we are all the same' is not true. We are not the same; that's what makes us beautiful," Meade said.

According to Ted Topi, communication student, "If it comes across in a way that hurts anyone's feelings, we did not accomplish our goal."

The film begins with five American students and five Asian students in the cafeteria. One student throws a piece of bread, and chaos erupts. The food fight continues until an African American chef storms out of the kitchen with a butcher knife in hand to break it up.

"I'd imagine some people will take issue with the fact that it is Asians against Caucasians," Kasey Riley, communication instructor, said. "The satirical commentary might be misconstrued as an endorsement of racial tension."

However, Meade is not concerned with the possibility of controversy.

"I'm making it to provoke thought and stimulate conversation. Everyone who watches this will feel differently about it," Meade said.

"Ben is courageous. He is not afraid of controversy. It does not get any more real than spaghetti sauce and chocolate pudding," Georgia Mueller, art and communication secretary said.

"The Race" is scheduled to be finished in January and will be shown during Harmony Week in February.



Steve Sirridge

Steve Sirridge listens to his co-workers, family and friends roast him with past memories before announcing a new endowed scholarship in Dr. Sirridge's name.

Photography by: Andrew Marx



Kelsey Orr and Tracy Friedeck at "The Race"
Photography by: Andrew Marx

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Images of the floating world

DENISE BRADSHAW
Features Editor

No one could see inside Thornhill Art Gallery. The doors and windows were covered with white paper to prevent anyone from sneaking a peek inside. The mystery of the blocked view caused many to wonder what was going on inside and why it was so secretive.

As the doors and windows were uncovered on Saturday, Nov. 14, all questions were answered. Viewers discovered Japanese woodblock prints adorning the walls.

The show was put together by Jerry Vegder who found and selected the prints to be displayed. This is the first time these prints have been in a show together. Many of the prints may have been displayed in other shows throughout the United States and Europe.

Gallery director Lisa Ann Sugimoto chose this show because she knew it would be successful. "I think it is important for the people in the commu-



Thornhill Gallery hosts a showing of Japanese woodblock prints.

Photography by: Karen Guber

nity to be exposed to this type of work," Sugimoto said.

The prints on display were created between 1795 and 1950 by great masters of the art. Two of the most widely known artists are Hiroshige and Hokusai.

A portion of the prints are known as ukiyo-e and were created during the Edo period, modern day Tokyo, in Japan. These prints became known as

"images of the floating world," which symbolized the ever changing notion of time.

Four major themes found in the woodblock prints include portraits of beautiful women, actors and theatrical scenes, landscapes, folktales and legends. Each of these themes can be found in the prints currently on display.

All prints utilize the work of an artist, an engraver and a printer. The artist,

the one who signed the print, would create and draw the design. The engraver then carved the design out of a woodblock. Finally the printer printed the design onto paper.

The artist that created the design sketched it in reverse so the image would print accurately. The engravers also had to carve the design in reverse.

The designs were carved into soft, cherry wood planks. They were then printed on Japanese washi, a highly absorbent, egg color paper handmade from the fibers of the mulberry tree.

Refined vegetable dyes and squashed insects were used to add color to the Japanese woodblock prints. Prints with colors were made using many woodblocks, one for each color.

Imaro's "Untitled Pillar Print" is Sugimoto's favorite piece. "It is just beautiful," Sugimoto said. She also said that she likes the composition and cropping of the piece. It is the only print that is thin and vertical. This piece is also the most expensive print in the show, valued at \$4000.

The Japanese woodblock prints will be on display at Thornhill Art Gallery through Saturday, Dec. 9. The gallery's hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday and 12 to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Kansas City sees its name in lights

SARAH A. LAFONTAINE
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Kansas City is headed for the big screen in a new civil rights film. Several locations within the Kansas City area were the backdrop for the movie, "The Painting." Producer S. Bryan Hickox needed a location that could pose as a Southern town, a mansion, and Vietnam. He found that location in versatile Kansas City.

Written by Morris Taylor, "The Painting," deals with the issue of interracial love during the Civil Rights Movement. The main focus is Randy Barrington, who is raised by his wealthy father after his mother dies in a car accident. His father, Randolph, is played by Charles Shaughnessy, better known as Mr. Sheffield on television's "The Nanny." However, Randolph's parental abilities are lacking, and Randy is raised primarily by the family's African-American chauffeur Thomas Ayers, played by Clifton Davis. As Randy grows, he clashes with his father frequently. He decides to help in the fight for civil rights, and ends up falling in love with Hallie (Stacey Dash), who is related to Ayers.

They get married and start a family. Then the Vietnam War begins, and Randy is drafted to go fight. His heroics during the war give another soldier the inspiration for a powerful, yet crude painting. Eventually, Randolph Barrington gets the painting and treasures it more than any other in his prestigious collection.

Also joining the cast is reknowned

actress and choreographer Debbie Allen from "Fame." Allen portrays a member of Ayer's family. She also acts as one of the executive producers on the film. Ben Vereen, who has starred in multiple Broadway productions, plays a blind blues singer. Cody Dorkin, who portrays the young Randy Barrington, rounds out the cast.

Locations were not the only connection between Kansas City and the movie. Several crew members have various ties to the area. Sound mixer Mark Bovos recently returned to Kansas City, his hometown, after living in Los Angeles for 20 years. Director Josh Rose has been the driving force behind "The Painting." His father, David Rose, is a Kansas City native.

Filming began Oct. 11 and included a wide variety of locations all over Kansas City. Two weeks were spent shooting at a home in Mission Hills that represented the Barrington mansion. Other locations included the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, a church in Weston, Elmwood Cemetery on Truman Road, and Tonganoxie, which acted as the backdrop for a voter registration scene in a Southern town. The directors also considered using either Clinton Lake or Truman Lake for scenes depicting Vietnam.

On a budget of only \$2.5 million, and five weeks of shooting, the cast and crew wrapped up right on schedule.

The Talon is looking for new staff members for the spring 2001 semester!!!

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Creed takes Kansas City "Higher"

Concert Review

KAREN GUBER
Sports Editor

"I think this is the new Pearl Jam song."

"Naw dude. That's not Pearl Jam, but I think that's Eddie Vedder."

"That's definitely Eddie Vedder."

It was not Pearl Jam and it was definitely not Eddie Vedder. Creed's front man Scott Stapp, often argued to be an Eddie Vedder wannabe, and the rest of the band took to the Kemper Arena stage, and showed off a talent all their own.

With four top 10 radio hits from their first album, "My Own Prison," on the play list, Stapp, bassist Brian Marshall, drummer Scott Phillips and guitarist/vocalist Mark Tremonti put on a stellar performance. "My Own Prison," "What's This Life For," "Torn," and "One" were just a few of the tracks the band rocked out with.

The group is currently promoting their sophomore release "Human

Clay," which has already reached sextuple platinum status and spawned such hits as "Higher," "With Arms Wide Open" and "Faceless Man." Stapp's sultry vocals and the sheer talent of the band left the crowd chanting for more.

On again, off again Days of the New also made an appearance. After the release of their self-titled record in 1997, the band split over "artistic differences." With only lead vocalist/guitarist Travis Meeks still in the mix, a new Days of the New was formed. They do not sound much different than they did in the old days.

With "Shelf in the Room" and "Touch, Peel and Stand," the revamped Days only added to the overall excellence of the show.

Opening the show was underrated Finger Eleven, formerly known as the Rainbow Butt Monkeys. You may have heard their single "Suffocate" on the "Scream 3" soundtrack. These guys put on a phenomenal live show. Finger Eleven is definitely a band to watch for on the alternative/rock scene. Check out their latest release, "The Greiest of Blue Skies," in stores now.

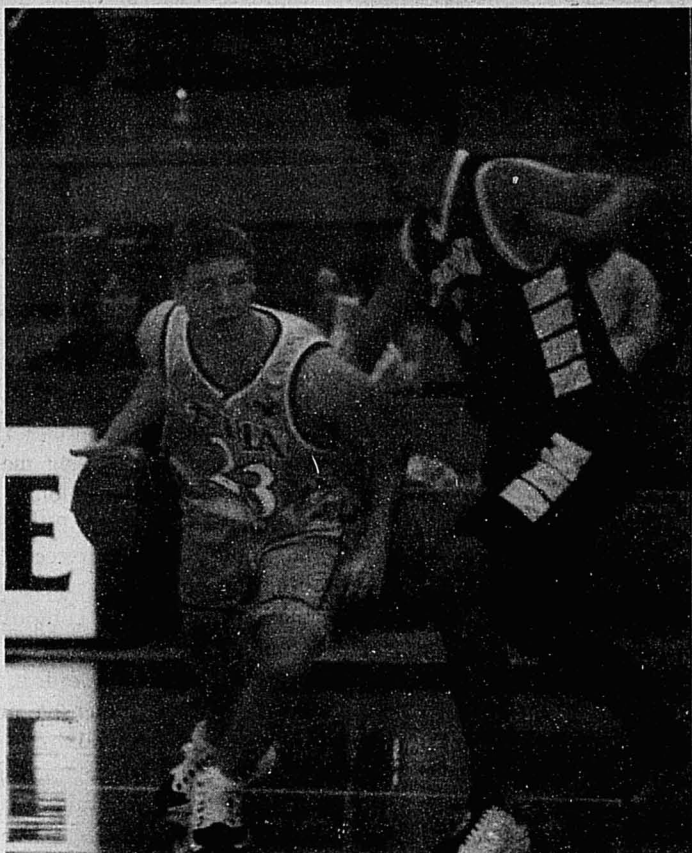
If you get a chance to check out the show, it rocks. I highly recommend it.

Karen's Concert Madness ranks Creed 4 3/4 out of 5 stars.

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S P O R T S



Maneuvering past the Ottawa defense, Wes Horne (23) sets up the Eagle offense.

Photography by: Karen Guber



Marlon Whitfield (14) intercepts a pass intended for the Ottawa offense.

Photography by: Karen Guber

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

ANDREW MARX
Advertising Manager,
Chief Photographer

Arde Fuller seems to have a good shot at being successful, on and off the court.

Fuller, a senior forward, is entering his third and final season as a member of the Avila basketball team. Fuller transferred from Kansas City Kansas Community College in 1998.

"I came to Avila because of their business program, a friend's recommendation, and I liked the school. Plus, I really liked the coach (Jim Huber) that recruited me," Fuller said.

Fuller is a Kansas City, Kan. native who is majoring in business management. After graduating in the summer, Fuller hopes to fulfill his dreams of working for a technology based Fortune 500 company. Eventually he plans on getting a master's degree in marketing.

In the meantime, he is happy playing basketball for Avila.

"Arde is a terrific rebounder. He has a real knack for the ball. Plus, he has made some improvements offensively. He has really turned into an offensive threat," head basketball coach Nick Totta said.

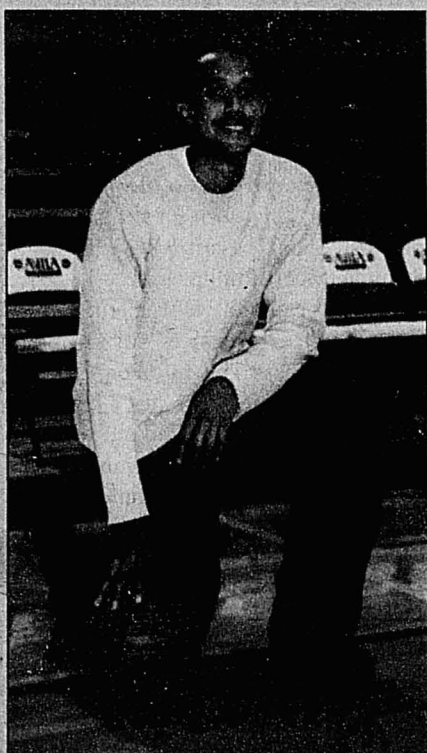
"Last year our record speaks for itself (5 wins and 25 losses). However, this year the team is full of talent," Fuller said.

Fuller mentioned how appreciative he and his teammates are of the fan support and would love to see more.

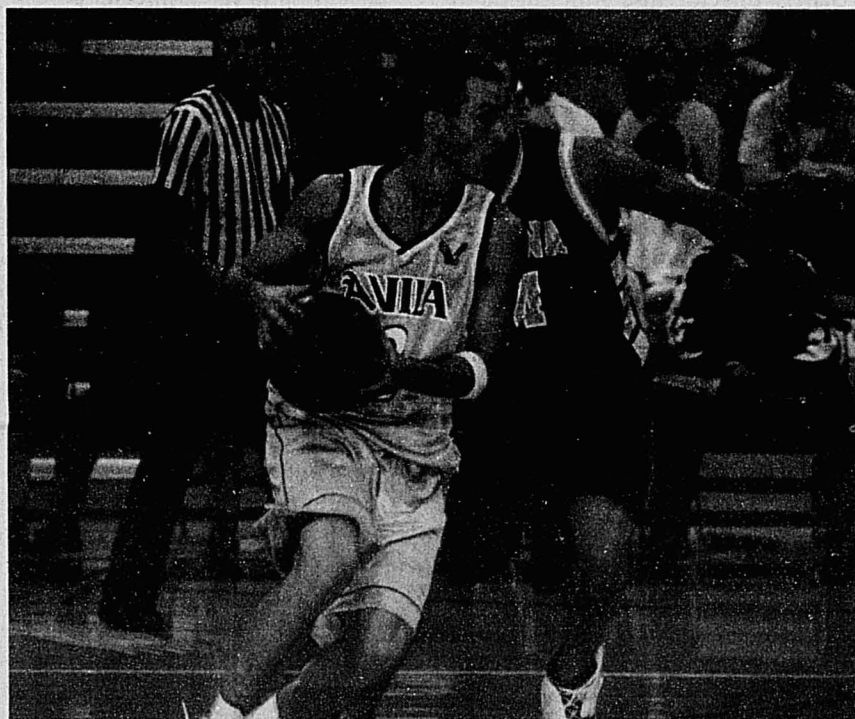
"The team is talented and exciting. If the fans show up, I promise the team will put on a good show," Fuller said.

Fuller said that the high-point of his basketball experience at Avila was placing second in the conference last season in rebounding.

The low point? Fuller laughed and said, "Last season."

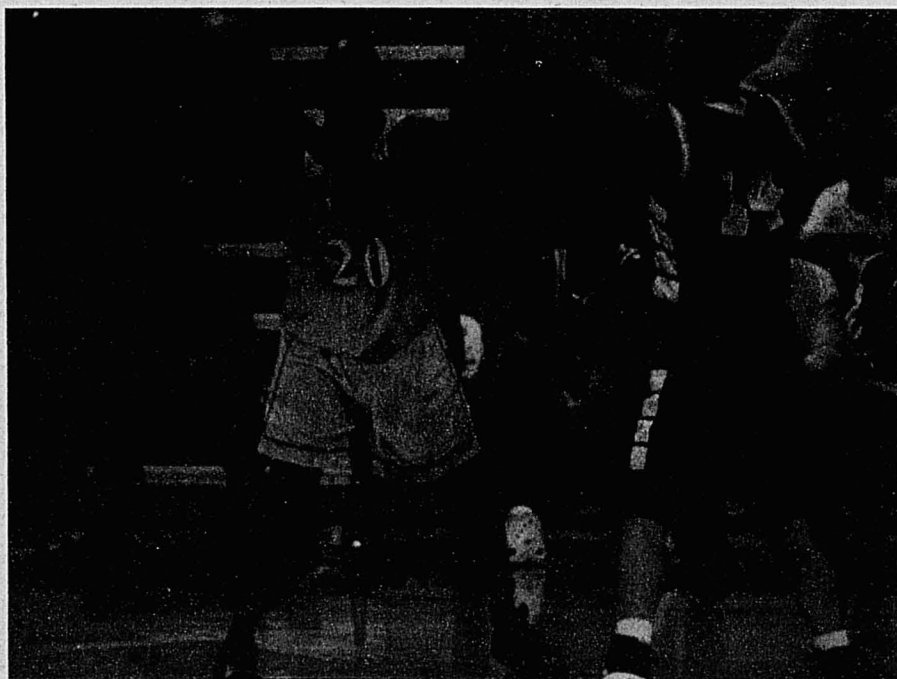


Photography By: Andrew Marx



Patrick Young (3) looks for an opening to make the pass while protecting the ball.

Photography by: Karen Guber



Mario Rodgers (20) swings the ball around the key before moving the play deeper into the Ottawa zone.

Photography by: Karen Guber

Athletic department fills empty roster

MANDY SCHICK

Staff Writer

There is a "no vacancy" sign outside the athletic director's office after the hiring of Gary Sharpe. Sharpe has an extensive background as director of athletics, including 21 years at the college level.

He comes from Middle Tennessee State University, where he taught physical education while working toward his doctorate in physical education.

"He has experience running athletic departments and is knowledgeable of the NAIA and small college athletics," vice president and dean of student affairs Joe Deighton, said.

For 14 years he was the head men's basketball coach at the University of Arkansas Monticello, where his 1986 team was NAIA national runner-up.

"Head coaching experience is good. It



helps to understand the coaches you are working with," Deighton said.

Sharpe has experience raising funds for athletic vehicles, events and general funds.

"He has good organization and people skills. He has a vision to help us become the best program we can," assistant athletic director Nick Totta said.



Melissa Fleming (43) charges through the Thrasher defense.

Photography by: Karen Guber



Jamie Ellis (10) protects the ball from a Bethel defender as she sets up to pass the ball. The Lady Eagles fell 70-56 to Bethel College.

Photography by: Karen Guber

Score big.



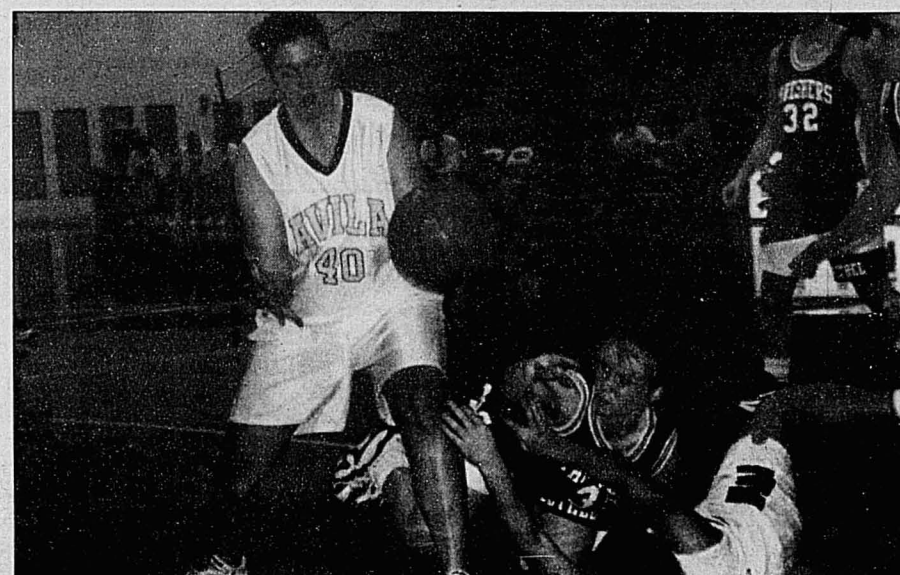
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Jamie Ellis makes a diving pass to Erin Carr (40) before the opponent can steal the ball.

Photography by: Karen Guber



Mary Blevins (42) moves the ball down the court past the defense.

Photography by: Karen Guber

The Talon

THE TALON is now accepting staff applications for spring 2001. Contact Steve Hiff in Dallas 807 (816) 501-3763

Cartoonist

Photographers

Writers

Home for the holidays

CATHY FLINT
Staff Writer

Trains, planes and automobiles carry anxious travelers home for the holidays. There are several ways for Avila students to get home this season, no matter where home may be.

Many internet sites are available that cater to the traveler. The sites can connect travelers by land, air or water.

One site, Council Travel (www.counciltravel.com), caters especially to students. They have contracted with 49 different airlines with over 460 destinations worldwide. Council Travel has been in business for over 50 years. The

traveler can make arrangements online.

Discount Travel (www.discounttravel.com), claims to have "the mother lode of resources for finding cheap fares." This site will connect travelers to other sites that fit their requirements.

Airfare.com lets the traveler browse different reservation systems. The only setback with this site is that some restrictions do apply and they only accept credit card payments. Airfare.com claims that the airline tickets purchased from a major U.S. airline are sold through the site at a discount rate of 17-25 percent.

There are several travel agencies near the Avila campus for those who do not wish to purchase tickets online. Travelsmart has many ways to find the best price for the traveler. Travel plan-



Photography by: Denise Bradshaw

ners usually gives discounts on packages, and will look for the best price available. Travel House is a reputable agency for traveling. These agencies are within five miles of Avila.

For better pricing, the traveler should

consider departing on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday. If flying, the traveler may be able to get a better price by going to an alternate airport. For example, land at Green's Airport in Rhode Island instead of Logan Airport in Boston or land at the Sacramento Airport instead of landing in San Francisco. There may be considerable savings available for holiday travel.

Travelers should plan on making travel arrangements at least seven days in advance.

Those who prefer to travel by land will find several car rental agencies located nearby. Amtrak and buses are also available. The Amtrak station and the main bus terminals are located in downtown Kansas City and the pricing varies depending on the final destination and length of the stay.

Cold cars

MIKELLE FIELDS
Staff Writer

The winter season is approaching fast and drivers need to winterize their vehicles.

The midwest is notorious for its harsh winters. There are several ways to prepare the cars for cold temperatures.

"There are simple things you can do to keep your car functioning. A lot of peo-

ple put unnecessary wear and tear on their cars during the winter months," Daniel Williams, mechanic at an area car dealership, said.

The first thing drivers should do is change their tires. The tires must have adequate tread. Investing in all-weather tires or snow tires is advised for winter driving. If buying new tires is not possible, drivers should consider buying used or retread tires which will last until spring. Kctires.com features area stores and shops that sell tires at reasonable prices.

"I think a good set of tires is essential to driving safely in the winter. A lot of stores offer tire specials around this time of year," junior Justin Weaver said.

Next, drivers need to make sure their car batteries are in good condition.

For drivers who are not mechanically inclined, many area gas stations and repair shops offer winterizing and tune-up specials.

"Keeping it tuned-up means the difference between a well-running car and a hunk-of-junk," Williams said. "Also, before starting your car each day, turn

off the radio, fans, and lights."

Another easy way for drivers to protect their vehicles is to keep a full tank of gas. Having a full tank of gas will prevent moisture from forming in the tank.

Drivers need to be prepared if their cars succumb to the cold temperatures at the wrong time. According to Williams, it is smart to carry a set of jumper cables, a blanket, flashlight, flares and water.

Preparation is the key to maintaining a reliable vehicle throughout winter.

Presents for pennies

JENNIFER SANCHEZ
Staff Writer

Purchasing cheap, high-quality unique gifts for the holidays is almost as hard as getting an "A" in biology. Every year students set out on a pilgrimage to spend what little hard-earned cash they have on family and loved ones. They could always whip out the plastic and buy anything they want. Then comes a bill in January with impulse charges for gifts like a \$60 plastic robot dog for a sibling.

Wanda Alfred is a single mother that has to make every dollar stretch for Christmas because she has a huge family. "Every year I buy old glass bottles and fill them up with vinegar and dried fruit and flowers. It usually costs me about \$5 per bottle while places like Pier 1 charge \$25." Alfred says that Hobby Lobby and Garden Ridge are great places to find these bottles.

Another idea for saving money for Christmas comes from student Monica Davis. This year she is creating a collage of photos for her family. "The only

thing I had to buy was the picture frame. Then all it took was a few minutes everyday to put it together," Davis said. Now her family will have a unique gift that will not be returned the day after Christmas.

Students who do not have time to make gifts can shop at discount stores like Big Lots, Recovery Sales Outlet (RSO) in Independence and the local mall. These stores have damaged merchandise normally 50-75 percent off retail value. Brendon Jenks, the sales manager at RSO, says every Thursday they get new shipments in from all the department stores. "Most of the time the only damage to the merchandise is the box, so we buy it from these companies and resell it back to the customer half off the retail price," Jenks said.

The mall may even be a source for great buys because retail stores make most of their money around the holidays, according to last year's business report in *Money* magazine.

"Every year around Christmas stores have huge sales to get rid of last season's stuff and to bring in more shoppers," Monica Nelson, a clerk at the information desk at Independence Center, said.

By careful spending, shoppers can save money this holiday season.

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City lights

DENISE BRADSHAW

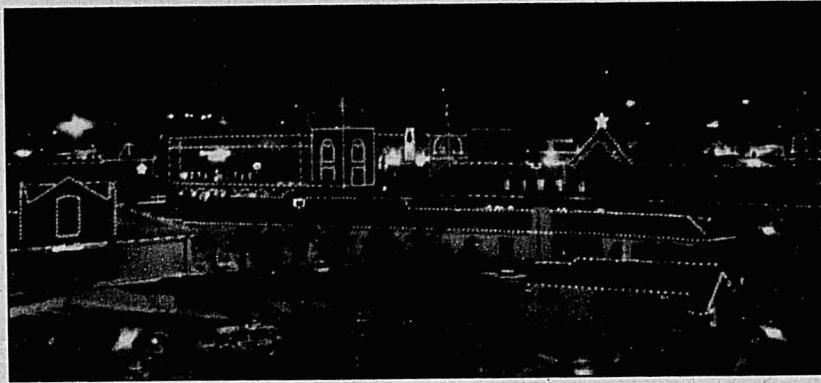
Features Editor

Every year around Thanksgiving the city lights up in anticipation of Christmas.

Sparkling lights that adorn houses in the neighborhood, trees in the windows, the Mayor's Christmas Tree at Crown Center and the Plaza catch my attention every year.

I do not remember a time that I did not visit the Plaza to see the lights. Every year it is the same. The same lights, the same cold weather and the same crowded streets. Still, I go in awe of Kansas City's tradition.

Crown Center's display of the Mayor's Christmas Tree and the Toyland playground surrounding it also brings delightful memories. Many of my friends and I visit this enchanting scene



Photography by: Denise Bradshaw

every Christmas season. The whole scene reminds me of the Christmas tree in "The Nutcracker" and how the toys come to life. Many children, teenagers and adults play with the Toyland toys, although these toys do not come to life. Who can resist playing on the large building blocks and riding the tall rocking horses?

There is no need for fear while playing in Toyland because the toy soldiers

stand guard at every entrance.

Just walking from the Mayor's Christmas Tree to the ice skating rink is enchanting. Every tree sparkles with golden lights to guide everyone on their journey.

Bright lights top my Christmas memories. Every year I visit those sites that make my memories so delightful. Sparkling lights help Kansas City celebrate Christmas.



Photography by: Denise Bradshaw



Christmas is....

KRISTEN REESE
Copy Editor

Christmas is a time to spend with loved ones.

And a time to remember those loved ones who have passed away.

Giving to others is important this time

of year.

Sharing what you can with others is the ultimate gift. Memories of Christmas past are in our hearts.

Remembering when you were young and could not wait to run downstairs to open presents.

Christmas is a time of tradition.

Every family has its own, and each person fulfills a role.

The most important thing is the peace, love and joy that originated from the first Christmas.

my new soccerball against the neighbor's house--you know where this is going, right? Exactly.

I kicked the ball through the living room window of my neighbor's house. The man of the house came out with my ball, telling me to go tell my parents what I had done. Instead, I ran home and hid under my bed, thinking I could just wait it out.

The neighbor came over and talked to my parents about his window. My parents came to my room and told me I was wrong for what I had done and the way I had handled it. However, they did not punish me.

Oddly enough, the next year my parents urged me to take up basketball instead of soccer.

I wonder why.

Christmas kisses

COURTNEY JO CUTLER
Editor-in Chief

Look out everybody,
And keep an eye on the ceiling
'Cause there's mistletoe hanging
To conjure up that holiday feeling.

At this point you know
Whether coupled or single,
Mistletoe means the time
For good ol' Kris Kringle.

So mind your manners
And stay on his good list.
And kiss only those
That you think should be kissed.

Couples in love
And husbands and wives



Will sure find that mistletoe
Can enrich their lives.
Hanging from the doorway
It's a fun little treat.

A nice way to welcome
The Sweetie you greet.
So, while doing your shopping
Be sure not to miss
A mistletoe bunch
For that holiday kiss.

My childhood Christmas

MELISSA BASHAM
Opinions Editor

"Silent night, holy night..." This Christmas song played at my grandma's house each year on Christmas morning. My brother and I came down the stairs and looked at all the Christmas gifts waiting to be opened. First, everyone grabbed his or her stockings and opened all the gifts hidden inside. Then my grandpa handed out the gifts and everyone watched as each person unwrapped gifts with anticipation.

We had to shake our gifts and guess what they were before we could tear the Christmas wrapping paper off. Sometimes I would guess anything, so I could open my gift. My brother and I put rocks inside my dad's gift to try to trick him. He was such a good guesser, we tried anything to make him guess



wrong.

After all the gifts were opened, Grandma would go into the kitchen to start Christmas dinner. We had ham, deviled eggs and several, sweet-smelling pies. After dinner, I played with some of the gifts I received.

Christmas has always been a special day for me. Now it is not all about getting everything I want, gifts-wise, but it is also about being together with family and friends.

A Christmas kickoff

ANDREW MARX
Chief Photographer/Advertising Manager

My Christmas memory is not as joyous as it is traumatic.

When I was seven-years-old, I received a Nerf soccerball for Christmas. Regardless of the snow, ice, and freezing temperatures, I decided to go outside and try out my new gift. This, of course, was without my parents' permission.

So, there I was, kicking my new soccerball against the brick wall on the front of my neighbor's house.

I was a 7-year-old boy, it was Christmas morning and I was kicking

VOICE
YOUR

O P I N I O N



Helping hands

MELISSA BASHAM
Opinions Editor

Starving and homeless, many families need our help in one way or another. They may need food, a place to live, or someone just to care about them. Everyone can help these families by just volunteering in their spare time to one of thousands of volunteer organizations. Even spending an hour a week at an organization can make a huge difference in the lives of these families. Another way to lend a helping hand is by giving donations.

I know many people who would like to volunteer, but they do not know where to go. One easy way to find several organizations is by going to the website, <http://www.kccares.com>. You can volunteer, give donations or both. Taking the time to help these families can be as important as donating money.

Another way to volunteer is by calling the Kansas City Area Volunteer Center at (816) 472-4865 from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

When I was in high school, I volunteered in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. I tutored children at Blue Hills Elementary and Cler-Mont Elementary.

At Blue Hills Elementary I helped tutor a little girl. I helped her with her homework and helped her learn to read.

At Cler-Mont Elementary I helped tutor a little boy that was in third grade. I mainly helped him with his homework.

The feeling of walking in their classroom and them running up to me made me feel so good. I was making a

difference in their lives.

Other Avila students have volunteered their time. Junior Melissa Vasko volunteered at Lee's Summit Animal Shelter and Adopt-A-Pet while she was in high school.

At Lee Summit's Animal Shelter, Vasko walked the dogs, cleaned out their kennels, and gave them baths. At Adopt-A-Pet, Vasko wanted to "get people to adopt dogs and cats." She would walk around with these animals hoping someone would want to adopt them. Vasko had to know everything about the animals, such as if they were spayed or neutered, so people would know if they wanted to adopt these animals or not.

She volunteered at both of these places for about three years. She said that volunteering gives you a good experience. "You learn a lot about society and self," Vasko said.

Sophomore Aaron Weaver has volunteered for three organizations. He was a tutor at Rolling Ridge Elementary, the Christmas Bureau, and was a camp counselor for City Mission in the Ozarks.

At Rolling Ridge Elementary, Weaver

tutored fifth and sixth grade his senior year in high school. He helped the children with their homework.

At the Christmas Bureau, Weaver helped sort canned good items. He volunteered once or twice a week.

At City Union Mission in the Ozarks, he was a camp counselor for one week during the summer. He volunteered for this organization for four summers.

Weaver was also head counselor one year and assistant counselor for three years. Weaver was in charge of seven to nine-year-old boys from the inner-city. They went swimming, went to chapel, and played games.

Weaver enjoyed volunteering. "It was fun to know that I was helping people out," Weaver said. "Maybe sacrifice one little thing, such as hanging out with your friends, to go volunteer," Weaver said.

Volunteering can help make you a better person, especially because many of you will feel great knowing you are helping others. I know some will say that they do not have the time to volunteer, but even an hour can make a difference in someone's life. Think about it.

THE TALON

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Campus Talk

Compiled by: Andrew Marx

Is there a problem with student parking at Avila College?



Aaron Jackson
Graphic Design

The parking near the O'Reilly building is at a minimum. Oftentimes I see non-handicapped people parking in the handicapped spaces or on the curbs marked "no parking."



Angie Alford
Media Communication

The parking has been a problem for communication students this semester. A possible solution could be to remove the older tennis court and turn it into parking spaces.



Kara Anderson
Media and Corporate Communication
Megan Bridge
Media and Corporate Communication

Parking has become a problem by the Dallavis building. There need to be more spaces available, instead of having to park on the street. The really old tennis courts should be taken out and more parking spaces should be added.



Katie Boyle
Elementary Education

While parking at Avila seems to be a pain, it could be worse. We don't have to pay a parking fee or walk for miles to class.